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Mar 2001 Vol. 8 No. 3

# The Voice

THE SPARE CHANGE MAGAZINE

## Women's Issue

Bodies &  
Bio-Politics

I'm 8 weeks pregnant. I'm 25 days from  
the disease. In her lifetime, I'm 25 times more likely to develop breast cancer.

# The Serious Side Of Bleeding

Cover: PF de Vos, Jr.

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# ONE WOMAN ONE VOTE

KELLY SLOAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE last four years at the YWCA Edmonton, typifies a woman for the new century. She works hard without being a workaholic, she's determined without being dogged and initiates change without trumpeting her success. Throughout our conversation I discovered, only by excessive prompting, that the One Woman One Vote initiative was largely Sloan's brainchild.

**OV:** What prompted you to come up with such an initiative?

I attended the YWCA World Council meeting in Cairo Egypt. One of the keynote speakers at that event was a woman who was at that time a vice-president in the government of Zimbabwe. She was certainly not wealthy, by any means, in fact, quite the opposite. Nor was she, by our standards, highly educated. But she had strong convictions and was passionate about making her community a better place to live. She decided the way to do that would be as a member of the government. She basically went to all her friends and family and they went door-to-door in the election at that time and asked all of the women there to vote for her. They did, and she was elected. That sparked me to think. In other countries that were represented at the World Council meeting there were women who couldn't vote because there was no real democratic system. For example, in places like Sierra Leone there were women representing the YWCA there who told us that if you are suspected of voting for the wrong person they will cut off your hands. I came home very frustrated by hearing women say: "Well, I'm not going to bother to vote. Why bother? My vote isn't going to change the outcome." When I had heard from women whose lives were endangered and who's family members had been killed because they wanted the right to vote, I began to think, this isn't right. What if all

the eligible women did vote? Just think of the power of that, regardless of who they vote for, just the fact that they choose to vote is a powerful thing. That's what sparked the flame for me.

**OV:** It's interesting that the trend toward government cuts largely affects women and children.

We know that 80% of single parent families are headed by women and more than half of those are living in poverty. The research shows that women, in choosing who they vote for are more inclined to consider social policy issues whereas, men look at economic issues. So the women are more inclined to put money into childcare. The gist of our campaign is not get women excited to vote for parties that are more socially conscious, its simply that women begin to talk about the issues that are important to them. And that they ask all of the candidates: "If I vote for you, what will you do for me to help on this issue." So it's really about not who you vote for it's about talking about the issues and getting out once you've made an informed decision.

**OV:** A lot of women I know are not really politically active nor do they care to educate themselves regarding political issues. Have you found this? Does this sound typical to you and, if so why do you think that is?

That does seem to be what we're finding. What we're trying to do is show women the link between voting and the impact it can have on their daily lives. For example by getting involved in voting and by knowing how to pick up the phone and call your candidate or your rep once the election's over and knowing how to ask them questions and how to ask for things to be done and for changes to be made. We hope that women are going to begin to

see this is how I can begin to affect change that really has an impact on me in my daily life.

**OV:** Out of all that research that you did, what surprised you the most?

The piece that surprised me was where the survey looked what influences women to vote. The number one influence for women was their intimate partners whereas for men it's their fathers. When you look at the full breakdown, men cite their intimate partners as way down on the list of influences on who they vote for. That surprised and disappointed me.

**OV:** You've had your kick-off where many women's organizations and media were in attendance. Now what is the next step?

The next phase leading up to the election includes doing presentations to groups as well as distributing the buttons and candidate questionnaires to as many different groups as possible. That's what we wanted, a real grass roots approach. It's really taking on a life of its own. The grand finale leading up to the election, the last two days before the election is the Edmonton Women's Show. Together with that show we are going to be holding candidate forums for one hour at northlands coliseum the Saturday and Sunday prior to Monday's election. We will have them questioning the candidates. I have been looking at this as sort of a launch pad for a 1-3 year initiative which will be what I call basic voter education with a second series of workshops which is more geared to political skills. Ie: How do I get nominated in a party if I want to be a candidate? How do I fund raise? How do I lobby? We see this series of workshops being developed and implemented by people like MLAs from different parties. That's the long-term vision I have for this.

DALE LADOUCEUR

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# THE SERIOUS SIDE OF BREASTS

**BREAST CANCER. THOSE TWO SMALL WORDS HAVE THE** power to pierce fear into the heart of a woman. Nearly every women's magazine we pick up contains a page discussing breast cancer. What it is. What your chances of getting it are. How to cope if you, or someone you love is afflicted with the disease. How to detect the illness through breast self-exam or mammography. What to do if your mother or sister or aunt has had breast cancer.

Ads are aimed, not only at the woman who may get the disease, but also at those who love her. Wear a pink ribbon. Run for the cure. Educate yourself. Perform a breast exam for your partner.

Society's joint obsessions with physical beauty and preserving what we have feed the fire of breast cancer. With a doctor's utterance of those two small words, a woman faces a huge loss. The ruin of her breasts can mean the disintegration of her place in society. Without those twin globes that have led her way into the world since she was thirteen, who is she? What value does she have? Her most secret fantasies, becoming an actress, being a model - destroyed. Unable to feed a child. No longer able to attract the eyes of a man with the slight tilt back of her hips and forward thrust of her chest.

But what of the woman, who, like the Amazon of folklore, boldly excavates her chest. Removing a breast to kill the disease before it can kill her. Is she a warrior or a coward? After her choice, how does she address life, knowing she destroyed what society sees as the ultimate symbol of her femaleness? Does she emerge from the ordeal free or fettered?

The specter of breast cancer is powerful. The fear has been used both as a tool for education and as a catapult for women's collective action. But, is the image of breast cancer that women have fair and accurate?

## The Specter

Most women know that their risk of breast cancer is about 1 in 9.5. We know that if a relative has had the disease, our risk is greatly increased. We also know that only 5-10% of women are in that category. We know that only 30% of women who get breast cancer have risk factors - early periods, children late in life, excessive alcohol consumption. The other 70% of women who get the disease have no factors that increase their risk. We really don't know what causes it.

We know that there is nothing we can do to defend our bodies against this cancer. It can start as a pinpoint in the flesh of our chests, and only when its dark fingers have grown large enough for our hands to detect, can we begin to fight it. Until then, we are virtually powerless, like children, knowing the monster is under the bed but helpless to kill what we can't see.

Because we can't defend ourselves, we recognize that we have two choices. We can curl up in fear, anticip-

pating the day the silent fingers will wrap themselves around a breast and begin to squeeze, or we can get up and fight.

Many women afflicted with this fear have elected to fight. Once they do, they learn that a woman's most effective defense is early diagnosis. So, the cycle repeats. These women create websites and organizations and running teams to spread information. They harass and cajole their sisters into action, until armies of women are standing in their showers, examining their breasts and waiting in line at the mammography clinics.

What gets lost in the noise of battle is a little bit of

Organizations like the NBCC aim to improve research funding to ensure that all women have access to treatment. Decreased cancer death rates indicate their effectiveness. However, the price paid by women for the success of their message is fear. While we are less likely to die from breast cancer, we are more afraid.

## Breast Cancer and Men

The obsession with the breast as a symbol of femaleness obscures the fact that about 50 men die each year from breast cancer. Not only do men die of breast cancer, they are more likely to die of all cancers than women are. Approximately 4,200 Canadian men will die from prostate cancer this year; about 10,700 will die from lung cancer. Testicular cancer is on the rise.

Although women have been afraid, they have also been talking to each other and to their doctors. While men have not lived in the same climate of fear as women, their price tag is a shorter lifespan.

## Profit Margins and Breast Cancer

Where men are just beginning to recognize the extent of their risk, women have been organizing for years. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and thousands of women run and walk to raise money for a cure. Corporate sponsorship of events is a key component to their financial success. However, some of the sponsorship is morally questionable.

Revlon hosts the Run/Walk for Women to raise money for cancer research. At the same time, they produce and sell products to women that contain known carcinogens. Phenylenediamine, a hair colouring ingredient, has been strongly linked to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Talc, a common ingredient in makeup,

induces lung tumors in rats. Revlon hair products contain diethanolamine (DEA) which causes skin tumors in mice when applied daily. Other companies such as Eli Lilly and Novartis make products known to cause cancer. They also sell cancer treatments.\*

While it is tempting to believe in a conspiracy, what is more likely is that this situation exists because our disease treatment model does nothing to challenge a system that gains from treatment and not prevention. Running for the cure is far more profitable than running for prevention.

## Surviving

Our choices are limited when we face breast cancer. Whether we are women or men, we will experience loss - loss of a part of ourselves or of someone we love. Confronted with loss of this magnitude, our fear can be overwhelming. Disease and death are not kind or selective or just. What they are is an inevitable part of life. What remains is how we choose to live our lives. This we must define for ourselves.

REBECCA LIPPIATT-LONG

## AN APOLOGY

In last month's centre feature, "Da Klein Report Card!" we portrayed Premier Ralph Klein in a way that many of our readers found offensive. The image of Mr. Klein's face upon the body of a scantily clad women was viewed as absurd and inappropriate by many.

We realize that the image was not in good taste and certainly does not reflect the kind of magazine our vendors wish to sell.

We do stand by our hard criticisms of the Premier in terms of his record of dealing with poverty in this province, but to portray him as we did degrades our cause and at the same time we've degraded women and made light of the many women who are in vulnerable positions by the image we chose. We have erred and we apologize to our readers for this mistake. We aspire to continue providing a quality, hard hitting magazine void of the obscene.

Michael Walters, Managing Editor

## CORRECTIONS FOR FEB 2001

Dale Ladouceur wrote the article "Arlene Chapman: A woman of Vision"

Rose Yeung wrote "Alberta Youth Challenge Candidates on Homelessness"

# INK MACHINE CUSTOM TATTOO

Photo: PF de Vos, Jr.

## MORE CASH FOR WINNIPEG'S HOMELESS

**THOUGH MOVING WITH GLACIAL SPEED, THE FEDERAL** government is finally loosening the purse strings to help Winnipeg's homeless.

Claudette Bradshaw, Minister responsible for homelessness, announced a \$305 million federal homelessness fund a year ago, but getting the money to those in need has been mired in bureaucratic inertia, as local agencies struggled to put funding proposals together.

Bradshaw has now let it be known that Ottawa has approved \$900,000 for eleven new projects, bringing the total offered since last October to \$1.1 million. The local Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness office refused to give any details of which projects will be funded.

Spokesperson Brian Williamson said the provincial government isn't happy that Bradshaw has already spoken to media about the new funding: "We have a joint effort by the province, city and Ottawa and we will organize a news conference in the near future to announce details."

While the politicians and bureaucrats argue about who gets credit and when the news conference will be held, Our Voice has learned that a dozen of 35 projects submitted to the Homelessness Office have been approved. A local church group will get funding to set up a clothing and food depot and some agencies will be funded to set up housing registries for youth and adults.

Funds are also being channeled to a \$200,000 project to provide housing for young people, along with life skills and personal development programs. There is also money -up to \$250,000- to develop programs to end people's dependence on shelters.

Joan Dawkins, Director of the Main Street Project, which last year provided 20,000 overnight stays for some 1,400 individuals, told Our Voice her agency has received \$253,000 in federal money to enable it to improve services, hire more staff and offer counselling to the one-third of clients who are genuinely homeless.

Dawkins said there is a strong need for transitional housing and for low-cost, safe homes as well as for training in basic life skills: "The challenge isn't to provide more shelters but to develop safe, stable, affordable housing options."

The first Winnipeg agency to get federal money last October was MacDonald Youth Services, which received

\$219,000 to support its homeless youth programming. MacDonald Project Coordinator Paul Johnston says the province and the United Way help them provide youth services and the federal funds will help a lot. They offer overnight shelter for up to eight youths aged 13 to 17, as well as counselling and outreach services.

"Due to funding problems we are only able to offer shelter services from 9:30 P.M. to 9:00 A.M., so we don't have a 24-hour facility," says Johnston. "We get a lot of kids from Winnipeg but also some who are traveling through or having a family crisis. We offer shelter and try to help them find solutions to their crisis, but generally we don't offer shelter for more than three nights."

Last year MacDonald Youth Services provided overnight shelter for almost 500 youths and offered counselling to about 1,400. Johnston says a lot of focus has been put on overnight shelter and food banks, but the real need now is for transitional housing and programs that help the homeless with life and job skills: "We need resources for the band-aid business but we also need programs that deal with long-term solutions, especially for youth aged 16 to 20," Johnston told Our Voice. "Often they have no job, no credit and few skills, so we need transitional housing where they can access resources and eventually set up in their own accommodation."

He added that agencies also need an integrated approach to service delivery: "There is too much bouncing the homeless around and what we need is a single place where they can access information and resources that will help them get on their feet."

Federal Minister Bradshaw plans to revisit Winnipeg in June to check up on the progress of agencies in tackling the homelessness problem.

PETER CARLYLE-GORDGE

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Upcoming  
**FEATURES**

Our 7th Anniversary

Goodbye Michael  
Walters

An interview with  
Maude Barlow

Inside the Remand  
Centre

## NO MORE POOR FAMILIES IN ALBERTA PARADE PLANNED!

I WOKE UP TO MY SUNDAY PAPER RECENTLY AND discovered Premier Ralph Klein stating that he was aware "of no Alberta families that are hard done by!" He was responding to a recent report released by the Parkland Institute about the decrease in family incomes over the past twenty years. Klein dismissed the report.

Wow, I thought! This is incredible. Just the day before I had spent an hour or so talking to a woman who was, for the first time in her life, heading to the food bank. Even with government energy and gas rebates flowing like oil out of Alberta, her family still came up short and there was no money left for groceries. Her gas bill to heat her old inner city house was, after rebates, \$311. I guess she won't be needing the food bank after all.

Then I remembered the family who called our offices just after Christmas because they had been evicted from their apartment. We ended up putting each of them in different shelters because there is a lack of family shelters in Edmonton. The father had been fighting with Workers Compensation and was deemed able to work by SFI. They had no income at all and three kids. They were a homeless family. I'm glad they're now on their way to comfort and security.

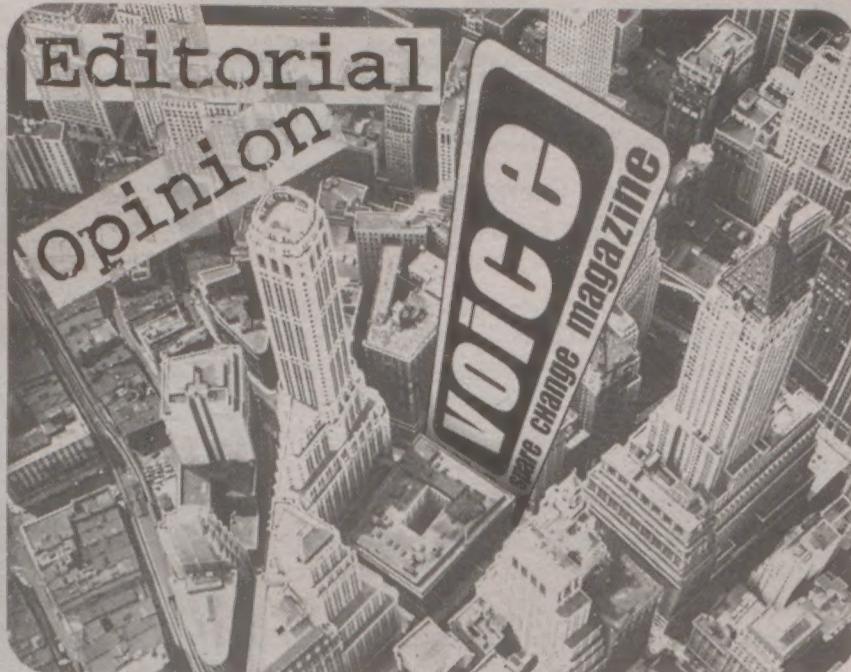
And how about the last homeless count, done by the Edmonton Task Force on Homelessness, which

determined there to be 60 absolutely homeless families in Edmonton? I guess they've all found the economic promised land.

And lest I forget the single dad, who lives down the street from me, who lost his job because he punched a co-worker who repeatedly dogged him with racist comments and discriminatory treatment. Nothing happened to the racist, but now my neighbour is having trouble getting a new job and raising his two kids. I guess he must have become employed.

I guess the food bank will be closed. I better call the staff and say my goodbyes. All the Family Workers here at Bissell will be off to work elsewhere because there will be no more families in crisis coming for help.

This is a great relief. I've seen way too many families destroyed by poverty in this province. My work here at Bissell has shown me the underside of the happy family we're used to seeing in our TV world. Most people in economic poverty are poor because they come from poor families. Yes it is a relief indeed!



Hmmm- okay the sarcasm stops now. Ralph Klein has no regard or concern for the poor in this Alberta. He never has. The Parkland Institute report in many ways repeats a common message that has sounded over recent years. The number of poor families and poor children is increasing in Alberta.

The most frustrating part is in order to deal with this increasing problem we are relying on a government that couldn't care less. Really!

MICHAEL WALTERS

## DEMOCRACY ON THE ROPES

Democracy is in jeopardy. While it is discouraging to consider, I believe that there has been a surrendering of sovereignty on a wholesale, global scale. Somehow, big business interests have leveraged governments around the world – many of them democratically elected – and bamboozled or bribed them into onerous trade agreements similar to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) currently being developed amongst countries of the Western Hemisphere. As a consequence, we are being subjected to a system of de facto governance, that is to say, the democratically exercised will of the people – as manifest in freely-elected governments – is being subverted by the unauthorized subjugation of power by ruling bodies such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. These organizations operate primarily under the aegis of the global corporate elite and, as Noam Chomsky observed in his essay, 'Notes on NAFTA: The Masters of Mankind,' "elite hostility to democracy is deep-rooted". I understand that many people will find this difficult to believe. All I would ask is that you take some time to reflect on it and try to uncover for yourself a balanced account of the whole sordid mess.

Why do I hold to these beliefs? It's simple: There are a limited amount of resources in the world today. There's only so much money that can be made in a democracy by converting these resources into consumer goods and then trying to convince people through advertising to buy these goods. Even the most pessimistic among us will admit that there is a baseline to human stupidity and gullibility. Given this reality, after a period of diminishing returns, any capitalist worth his salt will eventually turn to other big-money schemes. Having experienced increasing difficulty in homogenizing the market and making consumers anxious enough to buy his trifles, the cunning global capitalist has now turned his covetous gaze toward the essential goods and services – water and

home heating fuel, education and health care, etc. – with a view to commodifying them and using them as a means to increase his own net worth. These days all elements of society are considered solely in their relation to trade. Trade – a simple word for the pursuit of profit through the development and exchange of goods

The control man has secured over nature has far outrun his control over himself.

- Ernest Jones



and services – is deemed to be the ultimate value to which all others must be subordinated. These include the value of being able to afford comfortable (i.e. heated) housing and a sustaining diet; the value of a clean, unpolluted and naturally beautiful environment as well as the value of universal access to an adequate standard of health care and education... and let's not forget the value of democracy.

The raising of the profit motive to the dominant position amongst our cultural values is the hallmark of the capitalist ethos. Profit is not a dirty word, but as citizens in a civil society, we recognize that there are other values that transcend the chore of grubbing for money. In a healthy democracy, the government enacts measures to protect and nourish these values. What we are seeing these days though – and you can point to numerous examples - the Bill 11 slap in the face of

democratic proceedings; the Florida fiasco during the US presidential election – is a growing disregard for democracy on behalf of the elites. Trade agreements like the FTAA are prime manifestations of this disregard. As nation-states become increasingly subordinated to ruling global corporate structures, it stands to reason that the democratic principles represented by at least the majority of the western nations will take a backseat to the major orienting principle of big business – that being profit maximization.

Because people are beginning to recognize this dangerous trend you can expect to see many more protesters taking to the streets. There will be swarms of protesters in Quebec City in April during the Summit of the Americas. The message must get out. Given the corporate control of the media, the best way to spread the message is to put forward an undeniable physical presence saying "Here we are. Listen to our concerns."

With the unholy alliance being consummated between big business and government, it's up to civil society to oppose the fallout from their rapacious trysts. The results of these liaisons will profoundly affect us citizens. We must educate our children and ourselves. We should look into becoming members of local citizen action organizations (see below for an outdated but still informative link to Edmonton's People's Action Network). First and foremost though – and history reinforces this idea – we must not take our democracy for granted. We have an enormous task before us, and time is running out. But there is a lot that we can do together to provide hope in a hopeless world.

BILL WALLACE

For Maude Barlow's FTAA analysis visit the Council of Canadians' website at <http://www.canadians.org/campaigns/campaigns-tradepub-ftaa2.html>

Noam Chomsky's essay on the NAFTA can be found at <http://webmap.misouri.edu/htmlized/chomsky.masters.html>

An introduction to Edmonton's People's Action Network is at <http://www.web.net/~aen/fieldnotes/fn0005/article1.htm>

## BBQING THE SACRED COW

### What's It Going To Cost To Buy Our Country Back?

In December I wrote a column commenting on Social Activism in Edmonton. I wondered if anyone who had any stake in the corporate agenda; i.e., a job or money for consumer goods had sufficient motivation to do anything compared to those who had no stake in the agenda; i.e. the homeless and destitute.

Since then I have been encountering both individuals and groups who are committing massive amounts of energy to doing something. I have attended meetings where eloquent speakers attempt to warn Canadians that things can get a lot worse if they do not do something about this FTAA treaty that the government is attempting to implement by 2003. The Strathcona Saturday Farmers Market swarms with people and politicians handing out pamphlets and notices of upcoming events. Unfortunately, I see the same faces at all these events. Everywhere, concerned people are speaking to the already converted. There seem to be two major stumbling blocks to getting the message out to significant numbers of citizens or getting a meaningful response from those in power. Number one, big business controls the major media. Number two, our elected representatives in Ottawa do not have to pay any attention to their constituents once they get elected. We do not live in a democracy, but rather elect a dictatorship at regular intervals. There is such a feeling of frustration and impotence in all this. Maude Barlow calls upon Canada's civil society to rise up against corporate might the way peasants in Bolivia are doing. Is the last, best hope for planetary survival to be people who are willing to work without pay? Bev Collins urges us to write to Ottawa and ask for public hearings across Canada about the FTAA treaty and call for a referendum before it is voted into law. We are warned however not to put addresses on letters to Ottawa because the Government routinely sends such missives back by return post unopened. In the face of

such massive indifference to citizens' concerns, people start becoming willing to take more desperate measures.

In February I attended an event that sent me home practically in tears. This was "A Workshop for the Revolution", mounted by P.A.N. (People's Activist Network). This event was a workshop for individuals who wish to go to Quebec City, April 20th to 22nd to demonstrate at the site of the FTAA Summit. The day



Photo: PF de Vos, Jr.

consisted of a consensus building workshop to help people develop fast consensus building skills among members of their affinity groups, practical advise on how to organize small fast moving squads to negotiate activities on the streets of Quebec City, what to bring, what to wear and what to be ready for in the way of interactions with police.

This event touched me deeply. I find it hard to accept that the only way we Canadians have left to meaningfully challenge the power of big government and big business is to send young people, my children's age, in soccer shin pads, bicycle helmets and World War II gas masks, off to mix it up in the streets with well armed, well trained and well paid police. These young people are shaming us all with their simple physical courage. Is this what it is going to take to get citizens to ask the question: "What is all the fuss about?"

Perhaps some will follow up by finding out something about the issues that are at stake. If that is what it

takes, so be it.

Not everyone can drop everything and run off to make a statement with their presence in Quebec. We can still help with contributions of goods and funds. Can any of you city and volunteer fire fighters see your way clear to donating some Scot Packs? The soldiers of WWII threw away those gas masks and carried whiskey flasks in the pouch because if they got into mustard the masks didn't work anyway. Can any of you sports clubs donate some sports protection, gloves, goggles, knee, elbow, shin pads, helmets? Anyone have access to medical supplies they can donate? Can anybody spare bucks for transportation, food, film, living expenses? These young adults will be going, people, whether you think demonstrations do anything useful or not. The point is not whether they should be going. The point is whether they will be coming back. Let those who stay behind send some support.

If you wonder why a newspaper with a mandate to write about poverty issues in Edmonton is interested in a national issue such as FTAA, read some more about this puppy. Figure out, number one, who is going to be joining us out here on the street if this thing goes through, and number two, who is going to be paying as wealthy Americans, with millions of homeless on their streets, try to stave off a violent civil revolution and still hang on to their personal wealth. Would people like this have any problems throwing us trusting, good neighbor, Canadian patsies to the wolves? This writer would like to go to Quebec, as would a staff photographer, on behalf of **Our Voice**. This is completely beyond **Our Voice** budget possibilities, so I am appealing to readers: if you would like an **Our Voice** report from Quebec City, phone up Bissell, ask for **Our Voice** and pledge some support.

THERESA MCBRYAN

If you would like to get in touch with PAN or **Our Voice**, here are some e-mail addresses:

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## WORKING WITH EX-OFFENDERS

WHEN THE REVEREND COLEEN LYNCH WAS ORDAINED, she said, "God has always called me to where I need to be." Lynch has worked for 25 years in the prison system, as well as being an Anglican priest for part of that time. Now she has a new job with Corrections Canada. As Women's Reintegration Chaplain, she aims to bridge the gap between women released from federal institutions and an unwelcoming community.

The job, funded as a one-year pilot project, is anything but a pushover. In fact, Lynch says, "It uses all the skills and experience I've accumulated in my adult life."

Anita Hunt knows from experience how the community looks at ex-offenders. "The stigma never goes away," she says, "It has the power to take away everything I've been working for." What Anita asks from the community is "that my crimes be overlooked in such a way that I can get on with my life."

Elaine Mitchell is another ex-offender who calls Lynch her friend. In fact, she says her friendship with Lynch is "a lot of what's kept me going." Mitchell has been living in the community for over three years, and she and Lynch meet once a week. Though theirs has been a very special relationship, Mitchell admits one person, even someone as caring and skilled as Lynch,

can't do it all. A reintegration model called Circle of Support challenges the rest of the community to get involved.

All women who leave institutions---and men too, for that matter---need emotional support to help them stay out of trouble. There are many ways for volunteers to give that support. The program isn't looking for experts; in fact, as Lynch puts it, ex-offenders "get tired of talking only to professionals, talking about the pain all the time." Rather, the program matches ex-offenders with "community members who care about them as they strive to live 'normal' lives." "Sometimes just to be there is the best thing you can do," says Mitchell.

As things are, the odds for successful reintegration aren't good. "Maybe one out of ten of us is going to make it," says Mitchell. Lynch says the first two years are critical. Ex-offenders generally start out with high hopes, grateful to be back with loved ones and eager to use insights gained from counselling they received while in prison. At the same time, they feel vulnerable and "out of step" with the world.

After a few months, they may feel worn down by the pressures of rebuilding family relationships as well as working or going to school. They may also be isolated

and lonely, which increases the temptation to fall back into old, unhealthy patterns. Again this is where Circle of Support comes in.

Not only ex-offenders can benefit from the Circle of Support. When women reintegrate successfully, they become contributing members of society, perhaps warning others about dangerous lifestyles. Community members are also enriched by getting to know them. As Lynch would say, "Ex-offenders are just like everyone else in that they too need a safe and supportive environment, loving relationships and meaningful work."

Lynch sums up her goal as Women's Reintegration Chaplain this way: "To help women stay alive, to help women stay out of jail and to help women lead happy and healthy lives."

Joining a Circle of Support isn't the only way others can help. Prayer comes first, says Lynch. She also asks to be invited to churches and other community groups. A reintegrating women's newsletter is coming out soon, and it will need submissions. The new program also accepts donations. Address these to the Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation, 810 - 10177 Jasper Avenue, and mark them for the work of the Women's Reintegration Chaplain.

ALLISON KYDD

# NAVY BLUE CHILDREN

**MAZAR IDP CAMP NUMBER 65 - A MAN IN HIS SEVENTIES** is crying bitterly. I ask our translator to ask the men why he was crying. The response is that he has lost his two grandsons this morning and that they are preparing for their burial near the camp.

We enter the camp. A strong smell fills the place, a smell of bodies and human secretion. There is no light in this building: no electricity, no fire and no candles. We enter the first \*opening\* on our right. The room has no door, no windows or a curtain to give its occupants some privacy or protect them from the draft. I am freezing cold despite my warm clothes,

heavy coat and the woolen scarf. Two dead children are lying in the middle of the room and a number of women and children are sitting around them. I ask who the mother is. They point to a woman sitting on the left. Unlike the grandfather, she is not crying. She looks at us blankly as we stare at her.

\*Were the children sick?\* I ask. \*They were not sick. They died of cold. Also because there is no food that keeps the children and old people warm\*.

In the second room nine people are sitting on the cement floor.

Five children sit near the wall with their hands on their chests. For seconds I cannot tell why they look so strange. Then gradually it dawns on me. This is the very first time in my life I have seen navy blue children. I have seen black children, white children, yellow children, coffee-colored children, but never navy blue children.

A number of women and children stand outside the building. I get out of the car and as I look at them I realise that the children, who wear cotton clothes but no shoes or socks, do have navy blue faces, navy blue hands and navy blue feet. A strong wind is blowing and everybody, including the members of our convoy who wear very warm clothes, is shivering.

I ask our translator why the children have this strange colour. He looks at me with a disbelieving look in his eyes. \*Can't you see how cold it is here and inside the buildings. They look blue because it's cold and because they do not have food\*.

The old man approaches us with a little boy holding

his hand. He is still crying. I find myself crying too. Our translator informs us that the old man wants to tell us that this is the only grandson he has left and that he is afraid of losing him too.

After we visit building number 3 of Mazar IDP camp, we head for the UN Guest House. We have \$180 in cash between us. We decide that I shall not go to Islamabad as scheduled the next day.

Instead, I agree with WFP staff to have the names of the most vulnerable families in the three camps and buy some wheat flour from the local market. The \$180 buys 105 packages, each containing 3 kg of wheat flour, for 105 families. We distribute the food to 105 families.

\*A drop in the ocean. It is useless charity\*. One of our colleagues says. I do not argue. I am still haunted by the look of the crying old man, the sight of the dead

bodies, the face of the bereaved mother, but most of all by the navy blue children. I say to myself that it is also true that one hundred and five IDP families had something to eat for the next three days!

There are in Afghanistan nearly half a million Internally displaced persons who have no shelter, no food, no clothing and who, when they look at their children for the last time before they bury them, may think that one more KG of flour or potatoes, a pair of woolen socks, a pair of shoes or a jacket may have saved their children from death.

MAYSOON MELEK,  
MAZAR-AFGHANISTAN



Photos: www.rawa.org

**Afghan Women's Mission, Refugee Relief,**  
260 S. Lake Avenue, PMB 165,  
Pasadena, CA, 91101, USA  
[www.afghanwomensmission.org](http://www.afghanwomensmission.org)

Women for Women Afghanistan is trying to raise \$4000 to develop a women's centre for skills training and health activities at Akora refugee camp in Peshawar, Pakistan. Eighty percent of the residents of this camp are women and children. Illness, hunger, and poverty are extreme.

Donations (not tax-receiptable) can be sent to Women for Women Afghanistan, Bankview, PO Box 32104, Calgary, T2T 5X6 and marked "women's resource centre". Info at <[www.unhcr.ch/world/mide/afghan/htm](http://www.unhcr.ch/world/mide/afghan/htm)>

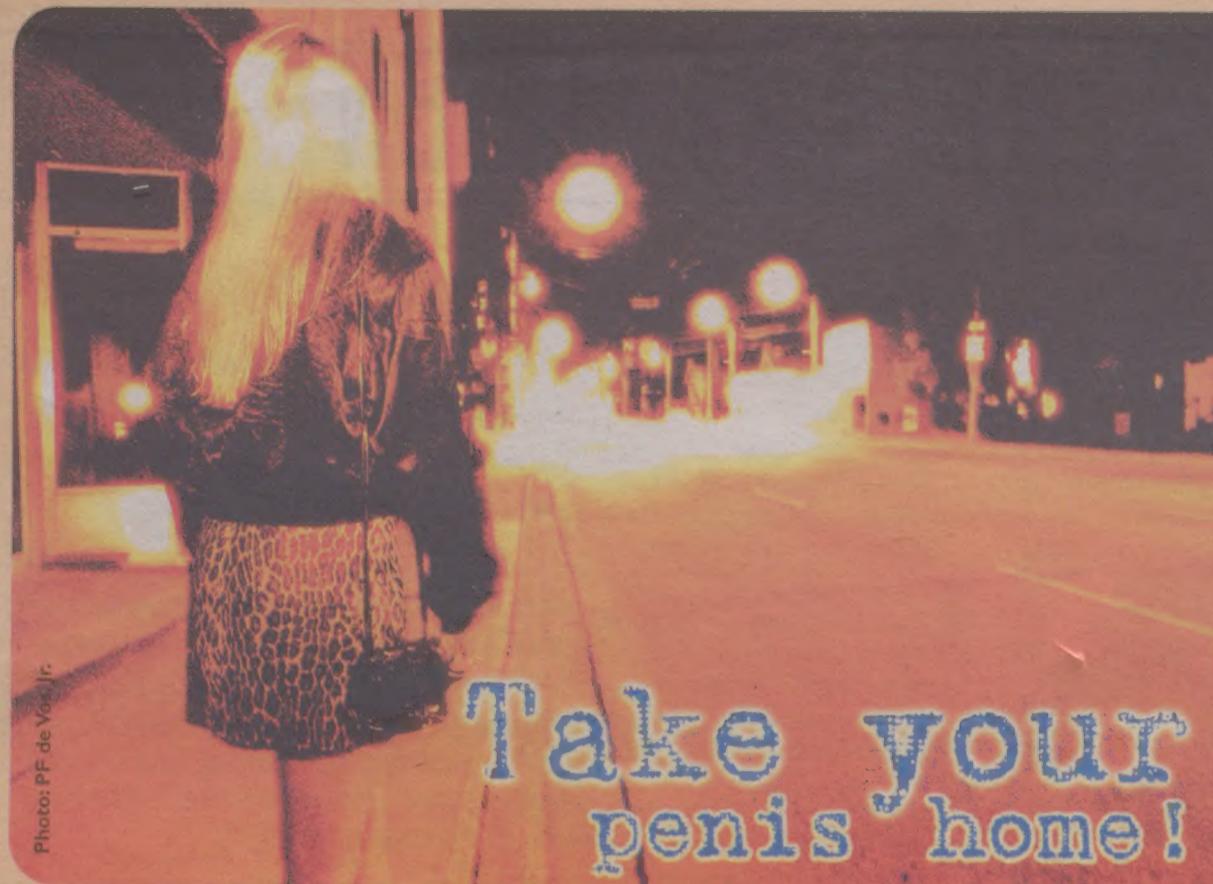


Photo: PF de Vos Jr.

## PROSTITUTION - THE OLDEST PROFESSION?

Have you heard people say, "It's the oldest profession, there'll always be a demand; you can't really do very much about it. Why don't they just set up a red light zone, require them to have health checks and make them pay taxes?"

Isn't it about time we asked why prostitution is called the oldest profession? Is it because people enjoy prostituting themselves; that certain people are naturally promiscuous or are "fallen" women? That prostitution is a form of sexual liberation?

When is the last time a high school set up a display table on prostitution as a career choice? Check out this website for a job description: [www.prostitutionresearch.com/prosAD/html](http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/prosAD/html) and see if you would recommend this "profession". The description could make you gag. One of the biggest tugs for me was the line "special opportunities for poor women, single mothers and women of colour." Over 80% of those prostituting in the much-touted red light district in Amsterdam are women from Eastern Europe escaping the poverty in those countries. Is this economic desperation the very thing we want to legalize, clean up and tax? Is the child sex tourism trade a business to promote?

I was once called an abolitionist. I had never stopped to label myself before, but I guess I am. I want to be part of abolishing the abuse that makes children and adults vulnerable to sexual exploitation through prostitution, the violent assaults that demean them, and the poverty that keeps them on the street. I want to help abolish the stereotypes and knock down the barriers which can crush people. This stance comes from my experience of living in a neighbourhood where street prostitution activity takes place.

One winter night I was driving home and stopped at a corner. A young woman approached me, thinking I was a potential customer. When I offered her a ride home instead, she said "Are you a journalist? Will you tell my story? I'd do anything to stop another 15 year old from getting started. Look at me, I'm 22 and there's no hope for me." Her top teeth were knocked out.

Another night, we heard a frantic pounding on our door. We opened it and a very frightened woman

came in with an angry man running up the stairs behind her. We shut the door on him, and when it was safe, drove her to her rooming house a few blocks away. I've seen girls walking home from school being frightened and harassed by men who only see them as sex objects, "working girls". When leaving for a meeting around 7 p.m. I saw a man push a young woman out of a car parked just in front of mine. She had blood streaming down her face as he took off. Could prostitution be called the "oldest oppression"?

I'm thankful to these women who came knocking on my door. So many survivors of prostitution have challenged me, humbled me, inspired me and moved me to take action with them to create change.

One woman asked our neighbourhood group "Communities for Controlled Prostitution" to call ourselves "Communities for CHANGING Prostitution". She said, "We don't want to control it or just move it, we want to deal with it, stop the causes of prostitution and offer support and choices to people so they don't have to stand on street corners."

Another woman challenged us to organize a "johns GO HOME" rally in 1993. She worked hard to bring over 300 residents and several politicians out to reclaim the streets. Still others added their voices to the demand to create the Prostitution Offender Program (john school). Many have been willing to share their life stories at this program in hope of stopping one more man from contributing to the exploitation of vulnerable children and adults. Others go out to schools, groups homes and young offenders centres to spread the word that prostitution is NOT like "Pretty Woman."

So many women, men and children around the world have suffered as a result of the commercial sexual exploitation of their souls and bodies. Some were brutally murdered, others died of despair and overdoses, and many are ravaged by merciless diseases. Let's not call it a profession.

KATE QUINN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
PROSTITUTION ACTION AND AWARENESS  
FOUNDATION OF EDMONTON (PAAFE)

### What is a Sexual Addiction?

In general, our society and culture are obsessed with sex and few of us are immune to the negative consequences of this obsession. At different times in our lives, most people struggle with issues related to emotional and sexual intimacy. The behaviors that are commonly linked to a sexual addiction often result from a person's difficulty resolving these complex issues.

A sexual addiction may best be compared to a gambling addiction. Just as most of us can become a problem gambler, many of us would respond "Yes" to at least one of the questions in the survey (see sidebar). This doesn't make us "bad" people, nor are sexual addicts "bad" people. It simply reflects how complicated human sexuality really is.

Those who struggle with this addiction may have experienced childhood abuse, neglect or were raised in families where other addictions affected the family. How can you tell when someone's behavior has crossed the line and become addictive?

Dr. Patrick Carnes, a leading authority suggests this description in his book "Out of the Shadows: Understanding Sexual Addiction". He says it's a secret - the person feels shame and hides his/her activities from others. It is abusive, it is hurtful and degrading to oneself or another. Sex is used to avoid painful feelings, or used to create feelings of self-hatred. Sex is empty of a caring, committed relationship.

If you struggle with these issues, or know someone who does, the most important thing is to let them know they are not alone.

PHIL O'HARA

### Sex Addictions: 12 Questions for Self-Assessment

1. Do you keep secrets about your sexual or romantic activities from those important to you? Do you lead a double life?
2. Have your needs driven you to have sex in places or situations or with people you would not normally chose?
3. Do you find yourself looking for sexually arousing articles or scenes in newspapers, magazines and other media?
4. Do you find that romantic or sexual fantasies interfere with your relationships or are preventing you from facing problems?
5. Do you frequently want to get away from a sex partner after having sex? Do you frequently feel remorse, shame or guilt after a sexual encounter?
6. Does each new relationship continue to have the same destructive patterns which prompted you to leave the last one?
7. Do you feel shame about your body or your sexuality, such that you avoid touching your body or engaging in sexual relationships? Do you fear that you have no sexual feelings, that you are asexual?
8. Is it taking more variety and frequency of sexual and romantic activities than before to bring you to the same levels of excitement and relief?
9. Have you been arrested or are you in danger of being arrested because of your practices of voyeurism, exhibitionism, prostitution, sex with minors, indecent phone calls, etc.?
10. Does your pursuit of sex or romantic relationships interfere with your spiritual beliefs and development?
11. Do your sexual activities include the risk, threat, or reality of disease, pregnancy, coercion, or violence?
12. Has your sexual or romantic behavior ever left you feeling hopeless, alienated from other people, or suicidal?

If you answered yes to more than one of these questions, we would encourage you to seek out additional literature as a resource or attend an SAA meeting to further assess your need.

### Support Groups:

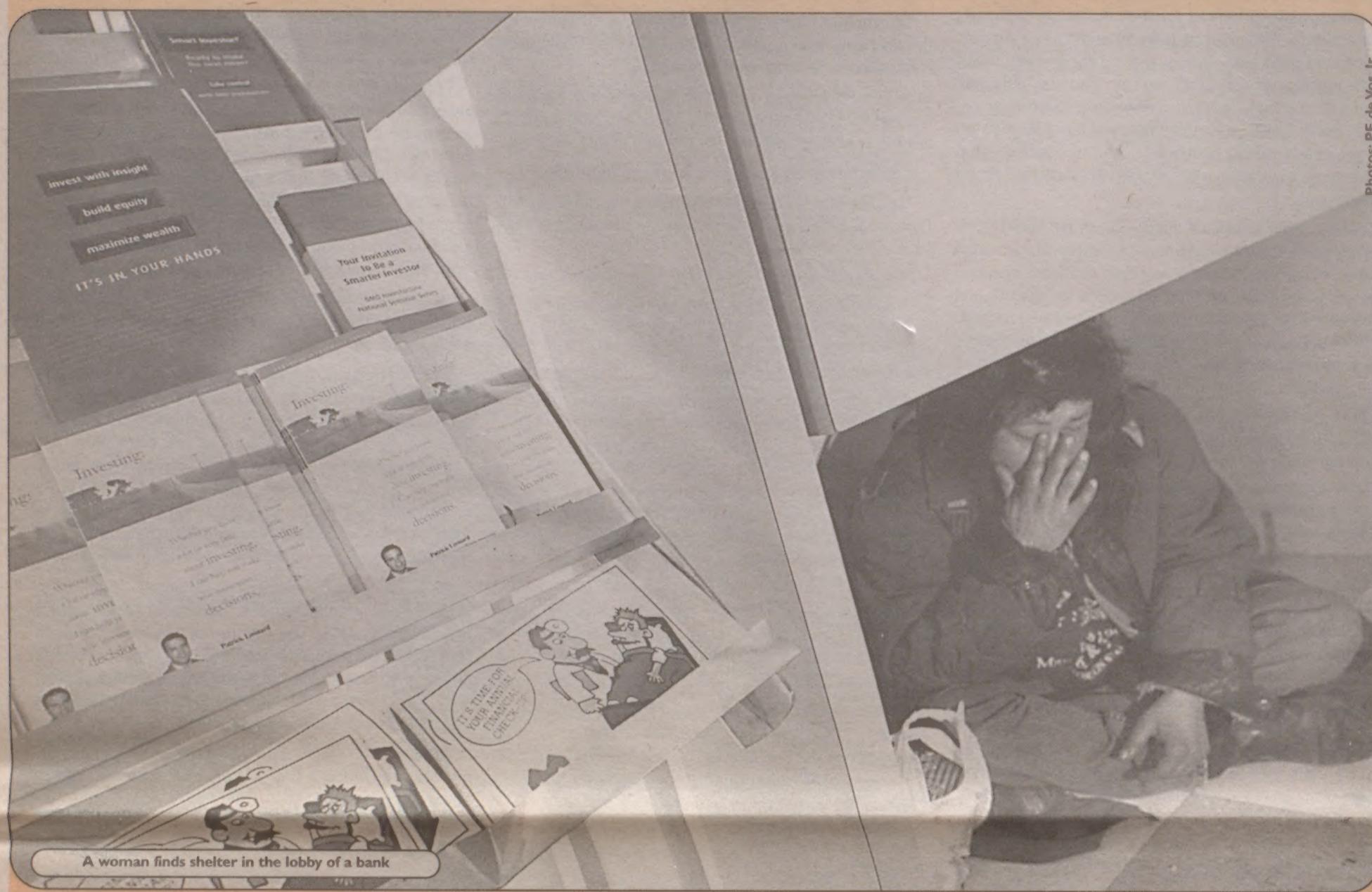
Sexaholics Anonymous (SA) 988-4411  
Sex Addicts Anonymous (SAA) 988-4284

### Books:

Don't Call it Love, by Patrick Carnes, PH.D.  
Sex, Lies, and Forgiveness, by Jennifer P. Schneider, MD.

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MAY 2000 (A PUBLICATION OF PAAFE)

# WE TAKE THE WORLD FOR GRANTED



Photos: PF de Vos, Jr.

**WE TAKE THE WORLD FOR GRANTED IN THAT WE** can go home and sleep in a warm bed or even eat a good hot meal. Some of us have jobs and money in our pockets. But there are people out there who don't have that luxury.

Most people I've talked to say the same thing - "We need more places for people to go at night and safer shelters." We need to be more aware of all the people who are living on the streets. Every year there are people dying out there or they land in jail. The homeless are the forgotten ones. We tend to shut them out and try to forget that there is a problem.

Some homeless people will be leery of strangers trying to help them. It's important to be educated about how to approach them. Their rule of thumb is to be wary of outsiders, because they have been stepped on and beaten by so many people in their lives. That's where awareness comes in handy and to learn patience to deal with street people. Street people are very private and to ask too many questions is to invade their privacy.

I should know, I lived out there for many years and I didn't want people to find out much about my back-

ground. I was scared if they found out there might be ways people could use it against me. That's why I lived in privacy for so long and just wanted to be left alone.

share and all sleep together to keep warm. People rely on each other and look after their own.

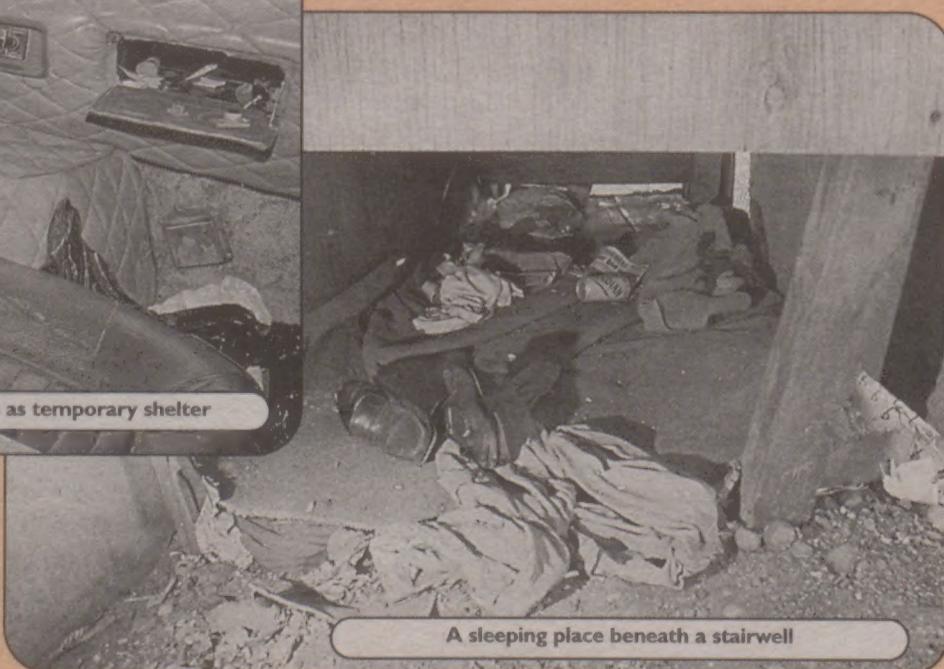
The one danger of living on the street is being beaten up by the young gan's that prowl the street at night. The other is the police that get a kick out of harassing you. Most of those are rookies trying to make a name for themselves. The veterans are the cool ones. They just leave people alone.

LEN BLACKFOX MARTIAL



An abandoned van serves as temporary shelter

When we went out to photograph sleeping areas it brought back a lot of memories. Some are behind stores where warm air comes in and you can sleep with a blanket, some are under stairs outside with blankets or carpets to keep out the cold from the ground. People



A sleeping place beneath a stairwell

## OUT OF THE SHADOWS

**THEY ARE THE WOMEN WHO WORK IN THE SHADOWS.** Their work is often overlooked because it's women's work done in private homes. They come from foreign countries, leaving behind families including husbands and children. They live in poverty seeking to support their loved ones back home, waiting for the day when those loved ones can be brought to Canada. Little was known about these women, commonly called nannies, until Leticia Cables, a nanny employed by an Edmonton lawyer, made media headlines when her sponsorship collapsed and she was forced to return to the Philippines.

Cables, now back in Canada for seven months, is counting the months until she can apply for an open visa to bring her husband and two children, aged 13 and 18, to be with her. "The time goes by fast. I'll just wait," she says. She still has another seventeen months of waiting because the time she spent in Canada before she was sent back doesn't count and she had to start all over again.

Bringing her family to Canada won't be easy. There is a fee of \$975 per head for immigration, plus another \$500 per head for processing. She also has to save money to pay for their plane tickets unless they can raise enough by selling off possessions in the Philippines.

A small woman, Cables' eyes fill with tears when she speaks of her children, "I don't want them with no education like me. Going to school is very expensive in the Philippines. There are the tuition fees. My son is in his second year of college studying electronic engineering."

Most of all, she says she doesn't want her daughter to have to make the sacrifice she has, living in a foreign country, keeping in touch with her family through phone calls and letters, and working for minimum wage.

Anita Orpiano is another nanny from the Philippines. She came to work in Canada June 11, 1998. She remembers the exact date, because this year on June 11 she can apply for an open visa to have her children and her husband brought to Canada. The children are living with her sister-in-law in the Philippines because

her husband is also working as a nanny, but in Israel. They both send money to support their children and are saving for the move to Canada.

"It's for the future of my family," says Orpiano, "It's the only way we can get in here. Life in the Philippines is too hard when you have less money."

In the Philippines, both Orpiano and her husband worked for the government for \$300 Canadian a month each. It wasn't enough money for the family to live on.

Orpiano now lives in with a family in Vegreville.

"I phone my children every second weekend. It's too hard to pay the bills so I can't phone more often," she says.

Another nanny, Esther Uson, has been a landed immigrant since December, and has already applied for an open visa to bring her children here. A widow, she last saw her three children, aged 19, 20 and 23, in 1998. Her husband died a year ago.

The application for her two younger children has been approved, but she has run into a problem bringing her eldest daughter to Canada because of her daughter's age. She hired a lawyer, and is applying to the Canadian Embassy in the Philippines to try to have her daughter's visa approved as a 'compassionate and humanitarian request' because the young woman will be without family when her brother and sister emigrate.

Now that she is an immigrant, Uson no longer lives in with the family she works for, but rents an apartment and moonlights as a banquet hostess at the Fantasyland Hotel.

To help other nannies, Lizzy Enrico, a nanny who has been in Canada since 1998, has started an organization - The Live In Caregivers Society of Alberta. She rents her own two-bedroom apartment, which acts as headquarters for the society and provides shelter for nannies who need a place to stay when they first arrive in Canada, or when they want a weekend away from their place of employment.

"I had seven staying with me before," says Enrico, "Now I have four on week-ends."

The society also helps in other ways.

"We are helping a single mom (Uson) who has problems with dependents in the Philippines to finance her lawyer," says Enrico.

Enrico has no children or husband in the Philippines, but she would like to sponsor her nephew to come to Canada. In addition to her nanny job, she works nights as a security officer and "sneaks in a few hours' sleep when the kids are in school." She said her employer knows about it and doesn't mind.

For these women working as a live-in domestic caregiver through the nanny program gives an opportunity to provide a better life for their families. Sonia Bitar, Executive Director of Changing Together, A Centre for Immigrant Women, thinks the nanny program is good because it provides an open door for the women to come to Canada, then bring their families, but there is a lot of sacrifice involved because they will be separated from their loved ones for at least three years.

"It's always the women who make the sacrifices," said Bitar, "if there is war, if there is poverty, when there are budget cuts."

For a woman to come to Canada as a nanny, she must have an employer who has hired her through a recruitment agency, paying anywhere from \$175 to \$2000 for their fee. They look at her education, her health and whether she can speak English. Once hired, the woman has to pay her own airfare. Nannies work nine and a half hours a day five days a week for a monthly wage of \$1410. Most live with their employers for the first two years until they are landed immigrants.

Bitar had special sessions at Changing Together in 1994 to help nannies, but the funding for that program was dropped. Now, she has re-applied for funding to start again. She wants to recommend changes to the nanny program, and to do so has hired Denise Spitzer from the University of Alberta to conduct a research project called In the Shadows.

"Until Cables came into public awareness, no one really thought about the existence of domestic live-in caregivers," said Spitzer. "We want to see how the experience affects them."

For the project, nannies, nanny services and employers will be interviewed and the data collected will be analyzed.

LINDA DUMONT

## SUPPORT OUR VOICE

Providing poor men and women with a chance to take control of their lives is the purpose of Our Voice. For six years now we have given opportunities to more than 1500 people in Edmonton who have found themselves living in poverty.

Our Voice, is a project of Bissell Centre, and was founded in 1994 to empower people who were homeless or at risk of becoming so, as they work toward gainful employment and self-sufficiency. With more than a six-year history, the Our Voice organization has gained notoriety for honest news reporting and our unique approach to addressing poverty.

### Some of Our Voice accomplishments are:

- Created income for over 2000 people in poverty and at risk of homelessness in Western Canada.
- Continues to be the most honest source of news in Alberta.
- Established as the leader in the fight for social and economic justice in Alberta.
- Continues to change the general attitude about the poor and the homeless.

### YES, I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR VOICE!

Our Voice has come a long way but needs more to be done and we cannot do it without you. Your tax-deductible financial contribution will allow us to continue our commitment of helping the homeless/and the unemployed transition into gainful employment.

Won't you please take a minute and send in your contribution today? Your giving and sup-

portive spirit will not go unrecognized.

Please send a cheque to Our Voice 10527-96 Street Edmonton AB. T5H 2H6

Enclosed is a tax-deductible donation for \$100.00  \$75.00  \$50.00  Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Your money will go toward:

- Helping with the printing costs of Our Voice.
- Computer and writing training for our vendors.
- Continued support and empowerment services for vendors.

# "FREE TRADE?" AREA OF THE AMERICAS

DID YOU EVER EXPERIENCE BEING IN THE WASHROOM AT work with the door locked when some clown comes along and – without even knocking – jiggles the knob and tries to open the door? What sort of person does that? Or how about in your house; did you ever have a burglar invade your home... while you were in it? These feelings of indignation and outrageous victimization could become familiar to us on a national scale if the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) agreement is allowed to pass into law.

While those who are pushing for and negotiating the agreement are trying to perform their work in secret, there are people who have noticed and are trying to get the warning out. Maude Barlow is one of those people. The Chairperson of the Council of Canadians spoke at the University of Alberta on January 31st and she painted a grim picture of the FTAA. A survey of Barlow's analysis of the FTAA (found at the Council of Canadians' website) shows that the agreement to extend "free trade" throughout the entire Western Hemisphere is indeed something to be concerned about.

Here is just a sample of alarming features of the FTAA:

■ The FTAA Negotiating Group on Services is working to establish an agreement that is even more sweeping than the World Trade Organization (WTO)-enforced General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The negotiators are putting in place something called "national treatment rights which, if allowed to be ratified, would mean that all public services at all levels of government would have to be opened up for competition from foreign for-profit service corporations." Not only would the FTAA open the door to bigger global competitors but also local, domestic service providers (in areas such as health care, child care, education, municipal services, libraries, culture, and sewer and water services) would be – according to the terms of the agreement – precluded from eligibility for preferential government funding.

■ With respect to the important issues of citizen safety and the environment, the FTAA appears inclined to adopt the WTO's Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) provisions. These rules put the burden of proof on the government to show that environmental, health, and safety regulations are both "necessary" and the 'least trade restrictive' way to achieve the desired conservation goals, food safety and health standards".

■ Similar to the TBT provisions, the FTAA is likely to incorporate the WTO's restrictions on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS). The SPS agreement would set "constraints on government policies relating

to food safety and animal and plant health, from pesticides and biological contaminants to food inspection, product labelling and genetically engineered foods... Like TBTs, these rules are seen by many as a way to reduce or eliminate government regulations that protect human and animal health in favour of private interests." These trade regulations would have a tremendous impact on the agricultural sector but an even greater injury to this pillar of the Canadian economy would be caused by the "maximum possible reduction or elimination of production and trade-distorting domestic sup-

ment on energy, the April Summit of the Americas in Quebec City will likely see the adoption (into the FTAA) of the onerous and controversial energy provisions of the Canada – U.S. Free Trade Agreement and NAFTA. While some may say that the energy sector's never been more robust, we should consider that, because of 'free trade', the cost of heating our homes has reached exorbitant levels. In negotiating NAFTA, our right of license denial for energy exports to the U.S was surrendered. Furthermore, there's nothing left of the mechanisms that were in place to protect Canada's 25-year

"vital-supply safeguard" of natural gas. So not only are we bound by trade agreement to continue to supply energy products to our cousins to the south but also we don't even have the guarantee of our own energy reserve should we need it in the future (as we undoubtedly will if the FTAA extends 'free trade' throughout the hemisphere).

■ Three key provisions of NAFTA presently jeopardize our public control of our water. The first is "national treatment" whereby foreigners have been granted the same right of establishment to commercial water use as domestic companies. The second is Article 315, the "proportional sharing" provision that would create the same continental market for water as has been done for energy supplies; a market that, it should be plainly stated, would bleed us dry. The third provision of NAFTA that affects our water supply (and other resources) is Chapter 11.

■ Chapter 11 of NAFTA basically carries investor protection rights to the extent that big business can sue governments for any law, policy or practice that is deemed to negatively affect the profitability of a business venture... regardless of how legal the government's action or for what purpose it has been taken. Thus we as taxpaying Canadian citizens find ourselves the victims who will ultimately have to pay the \$50 million awarded to an American PCB waste-disposal company under a Chapter 11 judgment. Outrage might give way to bemused vexation when you consider the nature of the next example. A California water company is suing the Canadian government because British Columbia has banned bulk

water exports. Does the California company have a water export agreement to back up its claim? No, under the rules of NAFTA the moment a resource such as water is banned from export, it automatically becomes a commodity subject to the trade regulations set forth in the Agreement. Paradoxical, isn't it? Yet it's on this basis that these Californians come seeking \$14 billion in compensation.

BILL WALLACE



Man is nature's sole mistake.

port" for farmers toiling under the FTAA. This would likely have the effect of wiping out the family farm and giving ascendancy to the transnational corporate agricultural overlord; global controller of the food supply.

■ Relinquishing control of our own resources is an alarming prospect, but food production would not be the first resource to be pirated away from us. Just as agricultural concerns are central to many Albertans, so too are those relating to the energy sector. Through the negotiators' intent to develop an "early harvest" agree-

**GLOBE SHOWDOWN**

GLOBAL

BAN THE GATT/WTO

SHOWDOWN

## PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS!

THE KLEIN GOVERNMENT IS NOT LISTENING OR CARING.

■ Albertans remember starving Medicare budgets to bring in Bill 11's Private Hospitals, so-called electric 'deregulation', privatization, using our natural resources like candy and allowing PS Education tuition increases to be the highest in Canada.

■ Invoking closure 30 times!!

■ These major policies are robbing Albertan's of security and democracy, and there's no need for it!

## PROTEST on the steps of the Legislature

Wednesday, March 7th at 6:30 PM

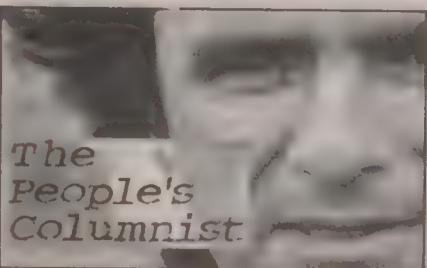
Bring:(Non-Partisan Please)

A) Signs and banners (in order to be seen)!

B) A lot of noise makers whether drums, shakers, pots and pans, horns (in order to be heard)!

C) Warm clothes (in order to be warm)!

D) Lots'a, lots'a people (in order for our message to be effective!!)



## ARTIST TREATS HIS PROFESSION AS A HOBBY

**MOST PAINTERS PREFER TO BRUSH THEIR COLOURS** on canvas, but artist Bill Belter likes the idea of creating outdoor wilderness paintings on circular power saw blades as a way of grabbing the eye.

Bill, a prominent inner-city artist, has been painting for over 5 years now. The son of a master painter and decorator, Bill was born in Edmonton and has resided here most of his life. For 8 years, Bill was a bombardier in the (R.C.H.A.) Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. After completing his military training at 27 years-of-age, Bill went on to achieve his painting and decorating certification, and worked 25 years in this specialized field.

Five years ago, a former employer challenged Bill to learn his own hobby, the unique art of painting wilderness scenes on circular power saw blades. Bill amazed his artistic mentor.

"I sat down and tried it. He looked at me and he said, 'You don't need any lessons, you're pretty damn good at this anyway.' I said, 'Why?' He said, 'You are just one of those people who are fortunate where the talent is there.' I didn't have to go to classes. I don't mean to boast or brag about myself. Apparently I just seemed to have the talent to do it."

That same year, Bill opened an arts and crafts store, which offered daily art classes for aspiring women artists. "Mr. Bill's Arts and Crafts" was located in the old Centennial Mall. Business for Bill was so good, that at one point a Banff business ordered 200 circular power saw blade art paintings. A week later, the same



business ordered 200 more blades, but unfortunately Bill couldn't keep up with the demand and eventually lost the contract.

Then came the tragic day when Bill's business was hit by bankruptcy. The relocation of both Safeway and Canadian Tire, two anchor stores in the mall, had considerable impact on smaller retail outlets, forcing Bill's business to close down.

Today Bill at age 57, is retired, a very content man. His profession is now more a hobby than a job.

"I do it purely for my own personal entertainment. I don't go out and try to sell it. I have people

come over and look at it. Then they say 'is any of that for sale?' Then I'll say, 'well sure.' That's basically how I sell them. I don't push it now. It's for my own personal enjoyment. If other people like it, then I'll do more."

Bill still has one very special goal in mind and a dream he'd like to see eventually become a reality.

"I'd like to see myself teaching young people in the art field, so they can occupy their time that way, instead of going out and getting into trouble. That's what I'd like to do. I'm not into it for a big profit."

To purchase Bill's art, contact Bill Belter between 9 am - 8 pm, Monday through Friday or phone him at 425-0122.

JOHN ZAPANTIS

### HAVE A QUESTION YOU CAN'T ANSWER?

#### A problem you can't solve?

Write to HELP ME RHONDA, c/o Our Voice Magazine. I'd love to help. Hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,  
Rhonda

If you want my reply to your letter kept confidential, or you want your letter kept confidential, include a return mailing address.



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# POETRY



*He's had a bad day at work...*

and to top it off dinner isn't ready

Photos: PF de Vos, Jr.

If you're a victim of family violence, and need some assistance contact the following:

WIN House 479-0058 (Crisis Line)  
 Family Violence Prevention 422-3369  
 Distress Line 482-4357  
 Changing Together, A Centre for  
 Immigrant Women 421-0175

## PLEASE DON'T HURT ME

Please don't hurt me  
 I try my best to please you  
 I consider you always

Don't get so angry and shout at me  
 I already know what has to be done  
 Life's been hard enough for me already

Do refrain from raising your hand  
 It makes me feel intimidated  
 Sorry for when I get in your way

By you I'm to stand  
 Even though I feel unsteady  
 You expect too much of me

Stop hitting and pushing me  
 I'm already black and blue as it is  
 Hanging my head in shame

Why don't you just let me be  
 Quit knocking and putting me down  
 I've got inner scars that may never heal

Criticizing really makes me feel low  
 So small that I want to cry  
 Can't you see my good side?

You're not like a husband but, more  
 like a foe  
 I want to curl up and die

You isolate me from everyone  
 Now I have no one else  
 Can't go outside either, so I have no fun

I'm to be with you only  
 To you I have to look up to  
 My life with you is lonely

Some day soon I'm going to run  
 No more can I take from you  
 Get out of prison with no bars

I'll see the beautiful sun  
 Smell the sweet scent of freedom  
 Watch the peaceful sunsets

GARNET NADEAU BULLCHILD

## DEFEATED

OUCH!  
 another punch to the face  
 what a disgrace  
 to go to work with a bruised visage  
 which could not be hidden  
 by ERASE

will I make it through the day?  
 how will I survive?  
 when tonight, I'll be afraid of not knowing  
 how hard the punch will be  
 or, what part of my body will be bruised  
 or, will I be snuffed to death

the powerful hand that swings above me  
 is frightening me and my little children  
 where can we run?  
 where can we find solace?

at last!! there is peace  
 ten miles away, but only for awhile  
 because we come home anyway  
 to the powerful hand that threatens our lives  
 day by day

MARLENE MATCHATIS

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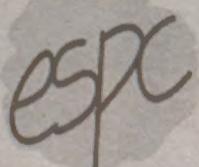
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do you think I feel? You  
don't know what its like!"

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A nose that can  
see is worth two  
that sniff .

- Eugene Ionesco

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